

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following paragraph.

--The mentioned derivatives include the compounds disclosed in WO 96/28412, in particular compounds of the general formula $R^2-N-CH_2COCH_2COOR^1$ $R^2-N-CH_2COCH_2-CH_2CO-OR^1$, wherein R^1 may represent an alkyl residue, which is optionally substituted by a hydroxy, alkoxy, alkyloxy, alkoxycarbonyloxy, amino, aryl, oxo, or fluoro group and optionally interrupted by oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorous atoms, and each of R^2 independently from one another represents a hydrogen atom or a group like R^1 , including salts thereof. According to a preferred embodiment, the aryl group is a phenyl residue or a monomembered 5 to 7 membered heteroaromatic residue. R^1 can be a linear or branched unsubstituted alkyl group (general formula $-C_nH_{2n+1}$; n is a natural number from 1 to 10). Particularly preferred according to the invention are 5-amino levulinic acid methyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid ethyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid propyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid butyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid pentyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid hexyl ester, 5-amino-levulinic acid heptyl ester, 5-amino levulinic acid octyl ester, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. The preparation of these compounds is for example described in WO 96/28412.--

Please replace the third paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph.

--For the choice of matrices, polymers are preferred, which have only low solubility vis-à-vis ALA, such as e.g. ethyl acrylate-methyl methacrylate-copolymerisate (EudragitEudragit® NE). Also advantageous is adequate adhesiveness, which makes it possible to produce self-adhesive matrix systems, which can be achieved by the addition of softeners (such as e.g. ATBC).--

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 4 with the following paragraph.

--As a self-adhesive polymer matrix, EudragitEudragit® NE (NE) with acetyl tributyl citrate (ATBC) as softener is especially preferred, in particular in the NE/ATBC mass ratio of 1:0.5 to 1:2.5.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 with the following paragraph.

--An embodiment of the invention which is particularly preferred according to the invention, relates to an application system in which crystals possess a diameter of 90 to 160 μm , and the polymer matrix consists of EudragitEudragit® NE (NE) and acetyl tributyl citrate (ATBC) in the NE/ATBC weight ratio of 1:0.5 to 1:2.5., ALA being present in a concentration of up to 50 wt. % relative to the ready-to-use polymer matrix.--

Please replace the first paragraph on page 5 with the following paragraph.

--The invention further relates to a method for the production of this application system, wherein freeze-dried EudragitEudragit® NE (NE) with acetyl tributyl citrate (ATBC) is dissolved in acetone, in the NE/ATBC mass ratio of 1:0.5 to 1:2.5, after which ground aminolaevulinic acid in the particle size range of 90 to 160 μm is dispersed in the acetone solution, and the dispersion thus obtained is drawn to produce a thin film on a carrier (cover foil), and dried for 45 minutes at 60°C.# --

Please replace the second paragraph on page 7 with the following paragraph.

--According to one embodiment of the invention, ALA is first ground and classified, the particle size range 90 to 160 μm being used. Freeze-dried EudragitEudragit® NE (NE:carrier polymer) was dissolved together with acetyl tributyl citrate (ATBC; softener) in acetone, in an NE/ATBC ratio between 1:0.5 and 1:2.5. This was followed by the addition and dispersion of ALA in concentrations in the finished films of up to 50 wt. % (% g/g). The preparation was then drawn to produce a thin film on a cover foil and dried at 60°C for 45 min. As a cover foil (or peel-off foil for the side of the film that comes into contact with the skin), Melinex 813 or a siliconised cover foil were found to be particularly suitable.--

Please replace the third paragraph on page 9 with the following paragraph.

--After 3 hours* application of a patch loaded with 20% ALA (EudragitEudragit® NE/acetyl tributyl citrate 1:1) on the forearm, the fluorescence of the skin area is measured. FIG. 2 shows that fluorescence is sharply delimited to the size of the patch and is homogeneous in appearance.--